UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/666,716	RAMSEY, DON
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yin-Chen Shaw	2135	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>08/30/2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2 and 5-36* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2 and 5-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This written action is responding to the Request for Continued Examination

   (RCE) dated on 08/30/2007.

2. Claims 1-2 and 5-36 have been submitted for examination.

3. Claims 1-2 and 5-36 are pending.

4. Rejections of Independent claims are provided with detailed citations from the

   prior arts.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2 and 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

   over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,490,683) and further in view of Ohgake (U.S.

   Pub. 2001/0044887) and Geeslin (U.S. Pub. 2002/0064113).

   a. *Referring to Claim 1:*

      As per Claim 1, Yamada et al. disclose a method for encoding a

      confidential optical disc with a burner, the method comprising the steps

      of: receiving signal of creating confidential optical disc to switch burner

      into a burning mode, receiving a start burn signal to begin data encoding

process, and burning buffer to an optical disc and produce a tangible

disc [(lines 1-20, Col. 8; Figs. 2 and 3 from Yamada et al.)];

setting a data-accessing password for future verification, [(lines 41-46,

Col. 19; Figs. 2 and 3 from Yamada et al.)]; and

creating a temporary file system as buffer that includes two stages,

creating standard file set and creating parallel file set with real data

[(lines 57-67, Col. 22 and lines 1-19, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)];

Yamada et al. do not expressly disclose the remaining limitations of the

claim. However, Ohgake discloses selecting one of data sources for

public viewing and confidential viewing data to be burned on the disc

[(lines 1-5 of [0030] and lines 1-14 of [0035] from Ohgake)].

In addition, Geeslin discloses wherein the data-accessing password is

placed to a secret file set descriptor and allocated on any unoccupied

space of an optical disc [(parag. [0030]-[0032] and [0034]-[0035]; lines

1-6 of [0040]; Fig. 1C-1E)].

Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin are analogous art because they are

from similar technology relating to digital information processing and file

system format for recoding medium. It would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine

the system disclosed in Yamada et al. to have selected viewing level

assigned to different portions of content for different users as disclosed

by Ohgake and to combine with Geeslin to have the descriptor

containing the password for data-access protection since one would
have been motivated to (1) have a method of controlling access to the
record medium (lines 2-3 of [0002] from Ohgake) and (2) providing a
method for setting the protection states of optical discs (lines 2-3 of
[0010] from Geeslin). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine
Yamada et al. with Ohgake and Geeslin to obtain the invention as
specified in Claim 1.

b. *Referring to Claim 2:*

As per Claim 2, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the
method of claim 1, wherein the burner is an optical disc writer associated
with a computer or other consumer device **[(Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.)
and (lines 1-5 of [0044] of Ohgake)]**.

c. *Referring to Claim 5:*

As per Claim 5, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the
method of claim 1, wherein the optical disc is a CDRW **[(lines 45-47,
Col. 22 and lines 40-45, Col. 4 from Yamada et al.)]**.

d. *Referring to Claim 6:*

As per Claim 6, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the
method of claim 1, wherein the optical disc is a DVDRW **[(lines 45-47,
Col. 22 and lines 40-45, Col. 4 from Yamada et al.)]**.

e. *Referring to Claim 7:*

As per Claim 7, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the optical disc is a DVD RAM **[(lines 45-47, Col. 22 and lines 40-45, Col. 4 from Yamada et al.)]**.

f. *Referring to Claim 8:*

As per Claim 8, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the selected data source is hard disc **[(lines 9-12, Col. 17 and Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.); *where the semiconductor memory can be a hard disc*]**.

g. *Referring to Claim 9:*

As per Claim 9, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the selected data source is CD **[(lines 9-12, Col. 17 and Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.); *where the semiconductor memory can be a CD*]**.

h. *Referring to Claim 10:*

As per Claim 10, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the selected data source is DVD **[(lines 9-12, Col. 17 and Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.); *where the semiconductor memory can be a DVD*]**.

i. *Referring to Claim 11:*

As per Claim 11, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the selected data source is DVD RAM **[(lines**

9-12, Col. 17 and Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.); *where the*
semiconductor memory can be a DVD-RAM].

j. *Referring to Claim 12:*

As per Claim 12, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the
method of claim 1, wherein the file system is UDF file system **[(lines 7-
11, Col. 19 and lines 43-45, Col. 22 from Yamada et al.)]**.

k. *Referring to Claim 13:*

As per Claim 13, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the
method of claim 1, wherein the file system is ISO 9660 file system
[(lines 47-48, Col. 22 from Yamada et al.)].

6. Claims 14-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,490,683), Ohgake (U.S. Pub. 2001/0044887),
and Geeslin (U.S. Pub. 2002/0064113), and further in view of Ando et al. (U.S.
Patent 6,907,187).

a. *Referring to Claim 14:*

As per Claim 14, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the
method of claim 1, wherein the creating standard file set stage further
comprises the following steps:

importing directory of data from a data source **[(lines 65-67, Col. 22 and
lines 5-19, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**;

creating descriptors that describes the whole file system **[(lines 53-64, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**;

assigning disc address of root directory to descriptor **[(lines 28-33, 39-43, and 53-58, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**;

reading the imported directory tree **[(lines 49-51, Col. 22 and lines 35-47, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**;

converting imported directory and files into optical disc format according to file system **[(lines 43-48, Col. 22 and lines 5-19, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**; and

assigning disc addresses to directories and file records **[(lines 64-66, Col. 22; lines 28-33, Col. 23 and lines 36-41, Col. 20 from Yamada et al.)]**.

Yamada et al. and Ohgake do not expressly disclose the imported directory of data is dummy data. However, Ando et al. disclose the encoded data may contain dummy portion, which can be imported for recording/playback **[(lines 35-41, Col. 14)]**. Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to digital information processing and file system format for recoding medium. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the system disclosed in Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin with the dummy information disclosed by Ando et al. since one would have been

motivated to have the improvement in and relating to an information recording method of recording video information of an information storage medium and information reproducing method of reproducing the video information from the information storage medium (lines 9-13, Col. 1 from Ando et al.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin with Ando et al. to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 14.

b. *Referring to Claim 15:*

As per Claim 15, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. disclose the method of claim 14, wherein the standard file set is created according to UDF file system **[(lines 7-11, Col. 19 and lines 43-45, Col. 22 from Yamada et al.)]**.

c. *Referring to Claim 16:*

As per Claim 16, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. disclose the method of claim 14, wherein the standard file set is created according to ISO 9660 file system **[(lines 47-48, Col. 22 from Yamada et al.)]**.

d. *Referring to Claim 23:*

As per Claim 23, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the creating parallel file set stage further comprises the following steps: importing directory tree of real data from

source [(lines 65-67, Col. 22 and lines 5-19, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)];

getting next available address by reading directory and file records of data to find out where directory tree ends in order to place next descriptor and data [(lines 66-67, Col. 19; lines 28-33 and 53-58, Col. 23; lines 35-38, Col. 24 from Yamada et al.)];

assigning disc address to real root directory and data-accessing password to a descriptor [(lines 66-67, Col. 19; and lines 36-41, Col. 20; lines 64-66, Col. 22; lines 28-33 and 53-58, Col. 23 and lines 36-41, Col. 20 from Yamada et al.)];

reading imported directory tree [(lines 49-51, Col. 22; lines 60-67, Col. 24; lines 1-5, Col. 25 and lines 57-62, Col. 28 from Yamada et al.)];

converting real directory files into optical disc format according to file system [(lines 43-48, Col. 22 and lines 5-19, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]; and

assigning disc addresses to directories and file records and assigning data addresses to file records [(lines 64-66, Col. 22; lines 28-33, Col. 23 and lines 36-41, Col. 20 from Yamada et al.)]. Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin do not expressly disclose the imported directory of data is dummy data. However, Ando et al. disclose the encoded data may contain dummy portion and real portion, which can be imported for recording/playback [(lines 35-41, Col. 14 and Fig. 7)]. Yamada et al.,

Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. are analogous art because they are

from similar technology relating to digital information processing and file

system format for recoding medium. It would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine

the system disclosed in Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin with the

dummy information as well as the real information disclosed by Ando et

al. since one would have been motivated to have the improvement in

and relating to an information recording method of recording video

information of an information storage medium and information

reproducing method of reproducing the video information from the

information storage medium (lines 9-13, Col. 1 from Ando et al.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamada et al.,

Ohgake, and Geeslin with Ando et al. to obtain the invention as specified

in Claim 23.

e. *Referring to Claims 17 and 24:*

As per Claim 17, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al.

disclose the method of claim 14, wherein the data source is hard disc

folder **[(lines 9-12, Col. 17 and Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.); *where the***

semiconductor memory can be a hard disc storing different folders

***and directories]**.

As per Claim 24, the rejection of Claim 23 is incorporated. In addition,

Claim 24 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 17.

Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 17

above.

f. *Referring to Claim 18 and 25:*

As per Claim 18, the rejection of Claim 14 is incorporated. In addition,

Claim 18 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 9.

Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 9

above.

As per Claim 25, the rejection of Claim 23 is incorporated. In addition,

Claim 25 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 9.

Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 9

above.

g. *Referring to Claim 19 and 26:*

As per Claim 19, the rejection of Claim 14 is incorporated. In addition,

Claim 19 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 10.

Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 10

above.

As per Claim 26, the rejection of Claim 23 is incorporated. In addition,

Claim 26 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 10.

Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 10 above.

h. *Referring to Claim 20 and 27:*

As per Claim 20, the rejection of Claim 14 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 20 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 11. Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 11 above.

As per Claim 27, the rejection of Claim 23 is incorporated. In addition, Claim 27 encompasses limitations that are similar to those of Claim 11. Therefore, it is rejected with the same rationale applied against Claim 11 above.

i. *Referring to Claim 21:*

As per Claim 21, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. disclose the method of claim 14, wherein the data source is sample menu **[(lines 9-12, Col. 17 and Fig. 13 from Yamada et al.);** *where the semiconductor memory can be a sample menu*].

j. *Referring to Claim 22:*

As per Claim 22, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. disclose the method of claim 14, wherein the descriptor in step of assigning disc address of root directory to descriptor is file set descriptor **[(lines 52-64, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**.

k. *Referring to Claim 28:*

As per Claim 28, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. disclose the method of claim 23, wherein the directory imported from real data in step of importing directory tree of real data from source is placed to a descriptor **[(lines 65-67, Col. 22; lines 5-19, Col. 23; lines 53-64, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**.

l. *Referring to Claim 30:*

As per Claim 30, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the step of burning buffer to an optical disc further comprises the following steps:

burning descriptors **[(lines 11-15, Col. 24 from Yamada et al.)]**;

burning directory and file records **[(lines 27-28 and 45-48 Col. 24 from Yamada et al.)]**; and

burning data at addresses assigned by file records **[(lines 30-33, Col. 24 from Yamada et al.)]**.

Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin do not expressly disclose the dummy data. However, Ando et al. disclose the encoded data may contain both real data as well as dummy data **[(lines 35-41, Col. 14 and Fig. 7)]**. Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to digital information processing and file system format for recoding medium. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

invention was made to combine the system disclosed in Yamada et al. Ohgake, and Geeslin with the dummy information disclosed by Ando et al. since one would have been motivated to have the improvement in and relating to an information recording method of recording video information of an information storage medium and information reproducing method of reproducing the video information from the information storage medium (lines 9-13, Col. 1 from Ando et al.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin with Ando et al. to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 30.

7. Claims 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,490,683), Ohgake (U.S. Pub. 2001/0044887), and Geeslin (U.S. Pub. 2002/0064113) and further in view of Serpa (U.S. Patent 6,954,862).

    a. *Referring to Claim 31:*

        As per Claim 31, Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin disclose a method for reading a confidential optical disc, which is a decoding method for reading optical disc produced by claim 1, the method comprising steps of:

        player reading optical disc data **[(lines 1-9, Col. 8 from Yamada et al.)]**;

        receiving view confidential data command signal **[(lines 66-67, Col. 19**

and lines 1-2, Col. 20 from Yamada et al.) and (lines 1-5 of [0030] and lines 1-6 of [0038] from Ohgake)];

requesting to entry of a data-accessing password [(lines 3-8 of [0038] from Ohgake) and (parag. [0034]-[0035]; lines 1-6 of [0040] from Geeslin)];

checking to if correct ID field exist [(lines 4-11 of [0037]; lines 3-8 of [0038]; lines 1-4 of [0040]; lines 1-4 of [0041] of Ohgake)];

if ID field exists in the optical disk, checking if entered password is correct [(lines 66-67, Col. 19 and lines 1-2, Col. 20 from Yamada et al.) and (lines 1-10 of [0038]; lines 1-8 of [0039] from Ohgake)];

if entered password is correct, playing/reading real data [(lines 66-67, Col. 19 from Yamada et al.) and (lines 1-10 of [0038]; [0039] and [0040] from Ohgake)];

ending playing/reading session [(lines 7-9, Col. 15 from Yamada et al.)].

Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin do not expressly disclose the remaining limitation of the claim. However, Serpa discloses checking to determine if password entries reach a predetermined limitation [(lines 19-20, Col. 4)]. Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Serpa are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to digital information processing and password for access control. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention

was made to combine the system disclosed in Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin with determining whether the limited number of times in password tries has reached as disclosed by Serpa since one would have been motivated to increase the security afforded by passwords and to make them easier to use (lines 25-26, Col. 2 from Serpa). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamada et al., Ohgake, and Geeslin with Serpa to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 31.

b. *Referring to Claim 32:*

As per Claim 32, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Serpa disclose the method of claim 31, wherein the entered password is the data-accessing password **[(lines 6-8 of [0038] and lines 1-6 of [0039] from Ohgake)]**.

c. *Referring to Claim 33:*

As per Claim 33, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Serpa disclose the method of claim 31. In addition, Serpa discloses if password entries in step (d) is more than five times reach the predetermined limitation, the method will ignore any further entries until player reads optical disk data as limiting the number of times the password may be retried and ignore/suspend further actions **[(lines 19-20, Col. 4)]**.

d. *Referring to Claim 34:*

As per Claim 34, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Serpa disclose the method of claim 31, further comprising if player can not find the ID

field or the ID field does not exist, then player will ignore the entered password until player reads optical disk data again **[(lines 4-11 of [0037]; lines 3-8 of [0038]; lines 1-4 of [0040]; lines 1-4 of [0041] of Ohgake)]**.

e. *Referring to Claim 35:*

As per Claim 35, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Serpa disclose the method of claim 31, further comprising if the password is incorrect, the method will ignore the entered password until player reads optical disk data again **[(lines 66-67, Col. 19; lines 1-2 and 7-13, Col. 20 from Yamada et al.)]**.

f. *Referring to Claim 36:*

As per Claim 36, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Serpa disclose the method of claim 31, wherein the playing/reading session will end up on the following event:

ejection off optical disc; turning off view confidential data option; turning off player reader **[(lines 7-20, Col. 15 from Yamada et al.)]**.

8. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,490,683), Ohgake (U.S. Pub. 2001/0044887), Geeslin (U.S. Pub. 2002/0064113), and Ando et al. (U.S. Patent 6,907,187), and further in view of Serpa (U.S. Patent 6,954,862).

a. *Referring to Claim 29:*

As per Claim 29, Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. disclose the method of claim 23, wherein the directory imported from real data in step of importing directory tree of real data from source is placed to anywhere on disc **[(lines 65-67, Col. 22; lines 5-19, Col. 23 from Yamada et al.)]**. Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. do not expressly disclose the remaining limitations of the claim. However, Sasaki et al. disclose anywhere on the disc that does not have a piece of data or descriptor's addressing fixed by file system or application layer **[(lines 1-7 of [0264] from Yamada et al.)]**. Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, Ando et al. and Sasaki et al. are analogous art because they are from similar technology relating to digital information processing and file system format for recoding medium. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the system disclosed in Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al. with virtual/non-fixed address in the protected area disclosed by Sasaki et al. since one would have been motivated to have a recording medium in which a lead-in area and an over-run protection area, both including an area which records chain volume management information for obtaining end position of an accessible area (lines 7-10 of [0002] from Sasaki et al.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamada et al., Ohgake, Geeslin, and Ando et al., with Sasaki et al. to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 29.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

    a. Khalid et al. (U.S. Pub. 6,675,257) discloses a system and method store information to a sequential storage media such that storage space occupied-by data deemed obsolete may be reclaimed. Information may be written to the storage media as sequential data sets with each data set including a catalog describing the information in the data set. A reclamation catalog identifies the obsolete data stored on the media and is written to the media. A generation number on the storage media may indicate whether the storage media has been reclaimed. A reclamation process transfers data from the source media (e.g., the tape media that includes obsolete data) to a destination media (e.g., a blank tape) while excluding the obsolete data identified in the reclamation catalog. The reclamation process may read a catalog stored on the source media that describes the data stored on the source media. The reclamation process then modifies that catalog by the information stored in the reclamation catalog to create a unified catalog. The unified catalog identifies which of the data stored on the source media is to be copied to the destination media. The reclamation process then copies the data identified in the

unified catalog to the destination media. The reclamation process may additionally increment the generation number to indicate that the storage media has been reclaimed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yin-Chen Shaw whose telephone number is 571-272-8593. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:15 to 4:15 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
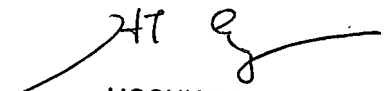
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YCS

Nov. 09, 2007

HOSUK SONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER